

UCLA RESPONSE MARCH 31 2015

From: Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs <OVCSA_RSVP@saonet.ucla.edu>
To: 'Tammi Rossman-Benjamin' <tammi@amchainitiative.org>
Subject: Response to your email
Date: March 31, 2015 at 1:33:48 PM PDT

Hello.

Thank you for writing. Chancellor Block has asked me to respond. Please know that the chancellor, I and our whole leadership team take anti-Semitism very seriously. We strive to maintain a University that is inclusive, welcoming and respectful of all our members. While no campus is immune to anti-Semitism, which can emerge during the sometimes difficult, even painful political debates that occur in our larger society, the Chancellor, the Dean of Students, I and others have and will continue to stress to our students the necessity of working together without stereotyping, intimidation or hostility.

Most of the time our students are able to live up to that standard, but occasionally some falter. When four students on the Student Council faltered in this case, a university administrator urged them to rethink their assumptions and the vote to confirm our Jewish student's appointment to the judicial board was unanimous. Nonetheless, this incident concerned us all. The student newspaper condemned it, I publicly did the same and the chancellor was concerned enough to send a [statement addressing the matter](#) to all 80,000 of our students, faculty and staff. We also stressed the many resources we provide to anyone who feels they have been the victim of bias or has safety concerns.

Since then all four students involved in the incident have [apologized](#) and each of them co-sponsored a [resolution condemning anti-Semitism](#) that was unanimously passed by our student government. We recognize there is much work to be done to improve our campus climate, but these are encouraging steps in the right direction that originated with our students.

I meet regularly with Jewish students to find ways to support them, increase campus sensitivity and strengthen multi-ethnic community and cooperation. The Chancellor also meets with Jewish students. And even in the midst of these conflicts, we are proud that there remains a strong and vital Jewish intellectual, social, and cultural presence at UCLA. Israeli scholars, Jewish student groups, and writers and artists from Israel, the U.S. and throughout the Jewish diaspora contribute to the life of this campus and we are all better for it. The [Nazarian Center for Israel Studies](#) and the [Center for Jewish Studies](#) at UCLA play enormous roles in contributing to that. We will continue to work with all those of good will to ensure that ours is a campus where, even in difficult times, we value the safety and dignity of all.

Sincerely,

Janina Montero
Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs
UCLA